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Mass and Memorial for Bela Horvath

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DAYTON, Ohio, March 20, 1973 --- (The University of Dayton University Relations, as a service for a dear friend, is sending this news release as a small token of our appreciation for the many wonderful accomplishments of Bela Horvath.)

A special Mass and memorial service for Professor Bela Horvath, artist, sculptor, painter, will be held Sunday, March 25 (his 84th birthday) at the University of Dayton's Immaculate Conception Chapel at 2:00 P.M. Prof. Horvath passed away on January 6, in Pompano, Florida.

Born in 1888 in Pinkafer, Hungary (renamed Pinkofeld, Austria after WWI) Bela Horvath attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest, and was assigned by the Hungarian government to study methods and trends in painting and sculpture in Germany, France and Italy. Meeting the strict qualifications exams, he entered academies for a year in each country, reporting back to his native country. He received a master's degree in sculpture and painting in Munich, Germany, and a doctor's equivalent in Paris, France. In 1940 he received a gold medalion from the United Professional Artists Society of Hungary.

He left Budapest in 1943, fleeing through the last corridor open from Hungary to Austria, which was under German control at the time. Consequently many of his paintings of that period are sized on Nazi swastika flag material. Prof. Horvath came to America in 1949, with the belief that America offered opportunity for all. To overcome his severe language handicap, he was taught English at the University of Dayton and in return he painted the statues in the chapels. In 1950, student became teacher and he taught painting and engineering drawing at the University until 1952.

Mrs. Horvath describes her husband's forte as beauty in drawing and color with idealism, and his theory of creating as working with the heart and love by beauty and ideals, wrought by an epherial feeling that is created by heavenly impulse. "Love of beauty in art and music was his greatest interest and creativity."

Among his many achievements in art are the Louis Kossuth bronze plaque on the doorway to the City Hall in Columbus, Ohio; the painting of St. Dismis for the Death Cell Chapel in the Utah State Prison; a painting of the Hungarians' fighting against pagan enemies, for the Holy Name Church in Dayton; and the altar piece in the Children's Hospital consolation room, in Dayton. Professor Horvath was also known for his many beautiful paintings of places all over America, "as record of his existance," Mrs. Horvath explains.

Before he left Dayton for Florida, Prof. Horvath received a gold medal from the Tommasa Campanelle Academy International of Letters, Arts and Sciences which reads: "Awarding for good merits achieved in your works of art."

A sculptured bronze head has been made by Ferencz Varga of Del Ray Beach, Florida, which holds the cremation ash of Bela Horvath. It will be on view at the Mass on Sunday and may eventually be sent to Budapest. Mrs. Horvath adds, "May his friends remember him for his art and beauty."